(*c*) whether flags were flown half-mast as an observance of mourning as a mark of respect to the memory of our late Ruler;

(*d*) whether the day of installation of the present Maharaja was treated as a holiday in the Harbour and attached offices in the Willingdon Island;

(*e*) if the answer to all or any of the above questions is in the negative, whether Government be pleased to take the necessary steps to see that the offices attached to the Cochin Harbour in the Willingdon Island observe these holidays?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon *(Secretary to Government):*

(*a*) Yes, one day.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) No.

(*e*) Will be considered.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Will the Government be good enough to appeal to the Harbour authorities to observe this?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon *(Secretary to Government):* The Government have already answered this question. We do not want to make any positive statement.

Mr. L. M. Pylee *(Latin Christians-Ernakulam):* How is the Government going to consider to make the Harbour authorities to observe a holiday which cannot occur again, *i. e.*, Installation of the present Maharaja?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon *(Secretary to Government):* We thought the question had some meaning.

JAIL REFORMS

105. Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether Government have brought into effect any of the reforms suggested by the annual meeting of the Madras Presidency Non-Official Jail Visitors' Association which has been noted by Government in their reply to question No. 36 (b) given on the floor of the Legislative Council on 19th November 1940;

(*b*) whether Government have considered about the necessity of starting a reading room in the Central

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Jail as promised by them on the date and in the reply referred to above as sub-division (e);

(c) whether they will be pleased to inform the House the reforms effected by them in the Jail Administration in view of their replies referred to in (a) and (b) above?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon *(Secretary to Government):*

(a) No.

(b) The question of starting a reading room was considered, but since there is a library attached to the Central Jail and the prisoners are making proper use of the same, it is not absolutely necessary to start a reading room at present.

(c) Does not arise in view of answer to (b).

CENTRAL JAIL—HUNGER STRIKE IN

106. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(a) whether there was recently a hunger strike in the Central Jail, Trichur;

(b) if so, what was the cause of the strike;

(c) the number of prisoners who went on strike and how was the matter ended?

Mr. K. Achyuta Menon *(Secretary to Government):*

(a) Yes.

(b) Following an alleged assault on a convict by a warder in the Jail, the warder was suspended. The strikers wanted the Superintendent to promise that the warder would not be re-instated. Though the Superintendent said that the matter would be enquired into and disposed of on its merits, they went on a hunger strike.

(c) 11 out of 490; the strike was given up on their own accord.

STAFF SELECTION BOARD—APPOINTMENT AND CONFIRMATION OF FRESH CANDIDATES

107. Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(a) whether the Staff Selection Board has appointed any applicant for a permanent post and confirmed him

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